

**REMARKS**

Applicants have amended the claims to clarify the present invention.

Claim 1, the only independent claim, as amended, is to a cutting tool for forming a slit on a sheet material. The cutting tool has a cutting tool body, a grooving blade for forming a slit, and a notching blade for forming an end portion of a slit, where the cutting tool body is formed in an arcuate shape, and the grooving blade is formed along either edge along the thickness direction of the cutting tool body. The notching blade is provided with a semi-cylindrical blade edge and an attachment site capable of being detachably attached to one end of the cutting tool body, and the notching blade is attached to one end of the cutting tool body in such a manner that an outer curved surface of the blade edge is exposed outside the cutting tool body. The attachment site is configured such that the blade edge can be adjusted in the radial direction, relative to a rotating axis of the cutting tool, of the cutting tool body, and the attachment site is provided with an oblong hole, and the notching blade is attached to the cutting tool body by inserting a bolt, via the oblong hole, into a bolt hole formed in one end surface of the cutting tool body.

In the Office Action, Claims 1-2, 4-6, 8, 11, 13, 14 and 16 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious in view of a combination of the teachings of Palamenti (U.S. 3,211,066) and Wilcox (U.S. 3,036,486). Reconsideration and removal of this rejection are respectfully requested in view of the present amendments and the following remarks.

In response to the arguments made in the previous amendment, the Office Action responds that it is argued that the combined references do not disclose a semi-cylindrical blade edge and radial

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adjustment of the blade edge as claimed. However, the Office Action argues that Palamenti discloses (in col. 3, lines 5-8) that "the arcuate distance  $a$  between the trailing and leading edges of the successive male blades (11) is equal to the desired depth of the box to be formed from the blank". Also, as shown in FIG. 2,  $a$  extends from the end of the bottom male cutting blade (11) to the start of the top cutting blade (11) just in front of the "lead-in" tip (37). Furthermore, it is asserted that col. 3, lines 29-31 disclose that "segment (32) has the convention spur shape, as shown, to start the slots to be formed in blank (28)". It is alleged that by the specification "lead-in tip" (37) is a cutting edge. Secondly, as shown by Wilcox, it is alleged that, in at least radial slots (12) shown on direct opposite sides of the center of the arbor (7), the cutting blade is capable of being adjusted in the radial direction.

There are still important distinctions between the present cutting tool and that of the references.

For example, Applicants respectfully submit that the blade edge in the present cutting tool can be adjusted in the radial direction of the cutting tool body while such is not provided in either of the references. The radial slots (12) in Wilcox enable circumferential adjustment but not radial adjustment. Claim 1, the only independent claim, has been amended to provide that radial adjustment is "relative to a rotating axis of the cutting tool", in order to emphasize this distinction.

Also, the Wilcox reference does not teach or suggest an attachment side that is provided with an oblong hole, with a notching blade attached to the cutting tool body by a bolt inserted into a bolt hole inserted in "an end surface" of the cutting tool body as now provided in amended Claim 1. The

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subject matter of Claim 2 has been added to Claim 1 and subsequent prior Claims 8, 11 and 14, dependent on Claim 2 have been canceled. In Wilcox, the slot (12) is in a side of the tool blade (9) and not in an end surface of the cutting tool body.

In summary, Claim 1 now specifies a blade edge having a semi-cylindrical shape and the blade edge can be adjusted in a radial direction relative to a rotating axis of the cutting tool, and that the attachment site is provided with an oblong hole and the notching blade is attached to the cutting tool by inserting a bolt, via the oblong hole, into a bolt hole formed in one end surface of the cutting tool body, and not a side surface. Such is not taught or suggested in the cited references and provides advantages not found in the prior art.

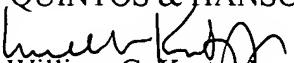
In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Claims 1, 4-6, 13 and 16-17, as amended, are believed to be patentable and in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

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In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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